



December 8, 2024



Second Sunday in Advent

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Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Jenkins

Today's Focus: The Lord prepares the path for his Messiah. Our worship follows *Service of the Word*.

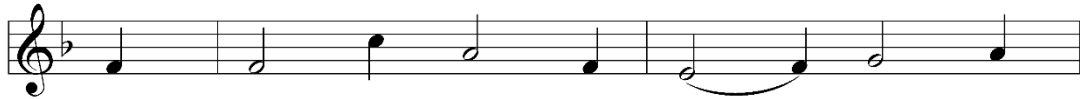
We Come into the Presence of God

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

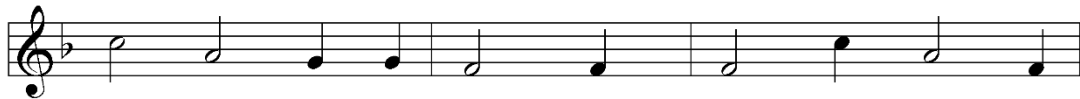
This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

OPENING HYMN: 14, Arise, O Christian People

At the late service, the choir sings verses 1 and 2; the congregation joins in verse 3.



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in -
not from me a - side, And help me to re -



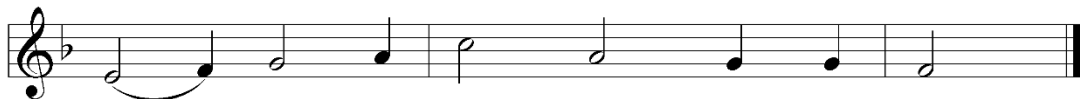
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
ter - ror, The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
straight, make plain the way: The low - ly
heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Stand

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Malachi 3:1-4

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

² But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach! ³ He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

⁴ Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 24

Read responsively

M: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,

C: the world, and all who live in it;

M: for he founded it upon the seas

C: and established it upon the waters.

M: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

C: Who may stand in his holy place?

M: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

C: he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

M: Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,

C: that the King of glory may come in.

M: Who is this King of glory?

C: The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

(Continued on Next Page)

M: Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,

C: that the King of glory may come in.

M: Who is he, this King of glory?

C: The LORD Almighty – he is the King of glory.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

St. Paul counts on the Lord's faithfulness and power to keep the Philippians faithful to the Lord until the end.

I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia! *(Luke 3:4 and 6)*

Stand

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist prepares hearts for the Messiah's arrival.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

(Continued on Next Page)

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
 "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.
 5 Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be
 made low.
 The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.
 6 And everyone will see the salvation of God."

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON: God Straightens our Hearts

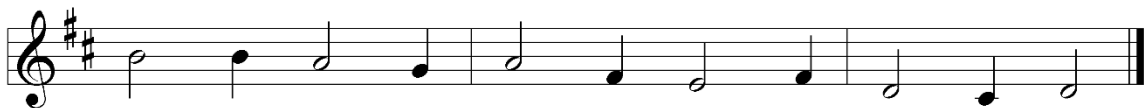
HYMN OF THE DAY: 16, On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
 vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.
 Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

SERMON

TEXT: Malachi 3:1-4
THEME: The Cry Carries to Us

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be Seated

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Come, dear Savior. We long for your appearing!

Come to cheer us with your promises, as you once cheered your ancient people throughout their long night of waiting and watching.

Come to restore our hope. Rouse us from the slumber of despair; lift our hearts from petty, earthbound goals; and direct our eyes above, from where you will soon come to make all things right again.

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Come and work in us godly grief and a genuine sorrow over sin. Forgive us for the shameful ways we have dishonored you, and the shabby ways we have dealt with one another. Through your mighty Word, stir up in us a ceaseless yearning to give ourselves to others, as you have given yourself to us.

Come also to rekindle our joy as we prepare to celebrate your first coming. Do not permit a frenzied busyness to rob us of your peace or to deprive us of times ponder and wonder at your Word. Set our hearts apart from the bustle and the clamor and the jostle of these days. Fill us with the quiet delight of finding you in the manger, and keep our hearts and minds undisturbed by the great throng that streams by uncaring.

We pray also for those enduring great sorrow, for those undergoing spiritual trial, and for those whose restless hearts have no knowledge of your coming. Comfort, strengthen, and enlighten them with the sweet peace born of your love, and keep them in the way of peace by your Holy Word.

Special prayers

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Come quickly, dear Lord, and fill our longing eyes with the light of your coming! We wait, we keep watch, and in you we put our hope. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN: 467, May the Mind of Christ My Savior



1 May the mind of Christ my Sav - ior Live in
2 May the Word of God dwell rich - ly In my
3 May the peace of God my Fa - ther Rule my
4 May the love of Je - sus fill me As the
5 May I run the race be - fore me, Strong and



me from day to day, By his love and
heart from hour to hour, So that all may
life in ev - 'ry - thing, That I may be
wa - ters fill the sea, Him ex - alt - ing,
brave to face the foe, Look - ing on - ly



pow'r in - spir - ing All I do or say.
see I tri - umph On - ly through his pow'r.
calm to com - fort Sick and sor - row - ing.
self a - bas - ing— This is vic - to - ry!
un - to Je - sus As I on - ward go.

6 May his spirit live within me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only him.

Text: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1859–1928, alt.

Tune: ST. LEONARD'S (87 85) A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1891–1953.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Sunday School Service Project – Today is the final day!

Our Sunday School's collection of cold weather items to donate to HUGS Warm in Woodbridge ends today. The donation box is in the narthex, and everything will go to help these in need in our neighborhoods during the winter months.

Advent and Christmas Worship Information

Brief devotions will follow our two remaining midweek Advent suppers on December 11 and 18. The potluck suppers start at 6, with doors opening around 5:30. Please bring something to share if you can; beverages and tableware are provided.

The Children's Christmas Worship Service will be during the 11:00 service next Sunday, December 15. The 8:30 service will follow the order of *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be at 5:00 and 7:00; Christmas Day worship with Communion is at 10:00.

Women's Bible Study - January 11

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will not meet during the month of December. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll be discussing chapter four of "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz. For questions, please contact Erika Ohlendorf at erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com.

Wine and Word Bible Study – on Break until 1/16/2025

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work



Don't Be Afraid of the Dark!

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20231115/>

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

Today's devotion is about a very special day—so special, it's the only one of its kind. It's the day when Jesus is going to come back to our world. It hasn't happened yet, and we don't know when it's going to happen exactly. But here's a clue: "the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." It will come like someone who is trying to break into your home. Why is nighttime the best time of the day to do that? Because it's dark, and a thief hopes you're asleep and won't be able to see him. That is a scary thought! A lot of people are afraid of the dark because they are afraid of what they can't see.

If you can't see this big day of Jesus' return, should you be afraid? Absolutely not! Today's devotion gives three really good reasons why you shouldn't be afraid.

We are children of the light and of the day. We don't fear the dark because we don't live in the darkness. We live in the light of Jesus! If we are near to Jesus, we can be surrounded by darkness, but it can't touch us. He is always there with us.

We have faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet. A breastplate is a piece of armor that protects your heart. A helmet protects your head. If you are wearing those two things, you are covered! Our faith in Jesus and what he did for us is like a breastplate. The love that he shows to us, self-sacrificing love, covers and protects us. And we have the hope of salvation! Paul says God has salvation waiting for us on the last day, not punishment. Because Jesus died for us, we get to look forward to living with him. So we should see salvation coming!

We have encouragement from each other. If you are ever afraid of that coming day, just turn to another follower of Jesus for some strength and encouragement. And share that same kind of encouragement with them! Build each other up with the good news that we can look forward to salvation!

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Questions to Consider:

Sometimes darkness is scary. Are you afraid of the dark? Give at least one reason why.

The next time you are in the dark, what is one thing you can remember in your head that will help to lessen your fear?

Paul mentions we should wear “faith and love as a breastplate” and “the hope of salvation as a helmet.” How do faith, love, and hope protect us in a dark world?

Paul calls us “children of the light and of the day.” Does that fact make it harder or easier to stay awake and clear-minded?

After today’s devotion, what would you say to someone who says, “We don’t know when Jesus will come back, so we shouldn’t think about it at all”?

Why is it important for Christians to encourage and build each other up before Jesus returns?

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.